

Message Text

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PAGE 01 SEOUL 07361 310941Z
ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07 L-03
NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06
ACDA-07 EUR-12 /078 W
-----126533 311245Z /45

R 310908Z AUG 77
FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6122
INFO SECDEF WASHDC
CINCPAC
AMEMBASSY TOKYO

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CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: SOPN MARR KS US
SUBJ: KOREAN PRESS ON US DEFENSE POLICIES

1. KOREAN MEDIA HAVE GIVEN EXTENSIVE COVERAGE TO REPORTS FROM WASHINGTON INDICATING THAT PRESIDENT CARTER HAS ISSUED NEW INSTRUCTIONS ON DEFENSE POLICY AND DEPLOYMENTS. ENGLISH AND KOREAN LANGUAGE PRESS HEADLINED STORIES THAT SECOND DIVISION WOULD BE RESTRUCTURED AS PART OF MOBILE REACTION FORCE FOR USE IN ASIA AND OTHER AREAS. ARTICLES ALSO STRESSED REPORTED DECISION TO MAINTAIN STRONG NUCLEAR DETERRENT VIS-A-VIS SOVIET UNION AND TO STRENGTHEN CONVENTIONAL FORCES IN EUROPE.

2. EDITORIALS ON THESE REPORTS HAVE EXPRESSED CONCERN OVER "EUROPE-FIRST" POLICY IMPLICIT IN THEM. OFFICIAL SEOUL SINMUN WELCOMED THE DECISION TO KEEP SECOND DIVISION AVAILABLE FOR KOREA AND SAID "IT HAS REMOVED WORRIES OF THE ALLIES ABOUT US LEADERSHIP" BUT ADDED "WE STILL

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DON'T UNDERSTAND WHY AMERICA IS TRYING TO MAINTAIN THE PRESENT NUMBER OF MILITARY FORCES IN EUROPE WHILE REDUCING THEM FROM TROUBLED SPOTS IN ASIA". CHUNGANG ILBO NOTED THAT CARTER PLAN LOOKS SIMILAR TO SCHLESINGER'S CONCEPT BUT "IS BASICALLY DIFFERENT," BECAUSE TROOPS WILL BE STATIONED IN US, RATHER THAN IN KOREA, AND SPECULATED THAT US "EUROPE-FIRST, ASIA-NEXT" POLICY RESULTED FROM CHANGED US PER-

CEPTIONS OF WORLD SITUATION. TONGA ILBO COMMENTED THAT THE RETURN OF THE SECOND DIVISION TO KOREA SEEMED UNLIKELY AND THAT IF SUCH A RETURN WERE PLANNED, IT WOULD CONTRADICT THE WITHDRAWAL DECISION. OTHER PAPERS FOLLOWED SIMILAR LINES, INDICATING MIXTURE OF REASSURANCE THAT US INTENDS TO RETAIN CAPABILITY FOR USE IN ASIA WITH CONTINUED ANXIETY OVER BASIC WITHDRAWAL DECISION.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLICIES, PRESS COMMENTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 31-Aug-1977 12:00:00 am
Decapton Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decapton Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977SEOUL07361
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770314-1191
Format: TEL
From: SEOUL
Handling Restrictions: n/a
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Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t1977083/aaaaabxm.tel
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Litigation History:
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Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 25-Feb-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1503775
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: KOREAN PRESS ON US DEFENSE POLICIES
TAGS: SOPN, MARR, KS, US
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkvgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/513a1054-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009